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# New Jersey OSHA E-Newsletter

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**Want Training? Attend Seminars?  
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## Ergonomics, Still A Concern!

As anyone with any interest in occupational safety and health knows, the ergonomics standard published in the Federal Register in January of this year, was repealed by Congress under the Congressional Review Act. President Bush signed the resolution on March 20, 2001. The issue however, just like the very real injuries caused by it, is not going away. In signing the resolution, President Bush said, "Together we will pursue a comprehensive approach to ergonomics that addresses the concerns surrounding the ergonomics rule repealed today. We will work with the Congress, the business community, and our Nation's workers to address this important issue." Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao has underscored her commitment to the safety and health of America's workers, calling it, "one of her top priorities as secretary." In that spirit, she has called for a solid, comprehensive approach to ergonomic-related problems in the workplace. This could be accomplished through a variety of measures including a new rule, guidelines, outreach and education, legislation or other means. The Secretary stressed that she wants to find ways to address injuries before they occur, through prevention and compliance assistance, not just relying on enforcement actions. The Administration is committed to finding a strategy that works for employers and employees alike in reducing injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

In related news, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education had a hearing on April 26, 2001 to introduce a new bill which would call on

OSHA to issue an ergonomics standard within two years of the bill's enactment. The bill, S.598, was being introduced by Senators John Breaux, D-La, Arlen Specter, R-Pa. and seven other co-sponsors. The bill would not cover ergonomics-related disorders that occurred outside the workplace and the new rule could not interfere with existing state workers compensation laws. Secretary Chao testified on the issue at the hearing and indicated that she has every intention of continuing to look for ways to address this important issue.

Stay tuned to this newsletter for future updates on this highly important issue.

## OSHA & the Somerset County (NJ) Chamber of Commerce—Perfect To-



Richard Torre, Assistant Area Director-Avenel OSHA Area Office (standing) and, Robert D. Kulick, Area Director (seated to his left) meet with members of the Chamber. See Page 12 for the story on this relationship.

## The Regional Administrator's Corner

This is the second issue of our New Jersey OSHA E-Newsletter. The response to the first issue has been overwhelmingly positive. Apparently, we were right—there is a genuine interest in local, up-to-date information on what's happening at OSHA and in the health and safety arena in general.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to another OSHA position and share with you my thoughts on the role this person plays within the agency and this region. The Labor Liaison is not a new position within OSHA, it is however, fairly new in this region having been filled just two years ago.

The role of the Labor Liaison is to effectively communicate and advance OSHA's enforcement and programmatic goals for the Region. It involves working very closely with both labor and management to ensure that these goals are understood and reflect the concerns of these important stakeholders.

Before joining OSHA, the Labor Liaison, Laura Kenny, worked for 18 years for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Laura worked for 13 years as the Director of the New York State SEIU Occupational Safety and Health Program and as the Assistant Director for Safety and Health nationally. During that time, a great deal of her work involved negotiating with labor and management to improve health and safety conditions in the workplace. In addition, Laura worked closely with OSHA on standards and hazards affecting the workers she represented.

Since coming to OSHA, Laura has been involved in a broad range of activities. A large part of her job includes responding to inquiries from workers, labor unions and managers regarding applicable OSHA standards, on how to file a complaint and understanding the inspection process and procedures.

Patricia K. Clark, Regional Administrator, OSHA Reg. II

*Editors Note: Patricia K. Clark is a graduate of Ursinus College, B.S.; Drexel Univ., M.Sc. and has been with OSHA since 1975. She became Region II administrator in 1994 and will be a regular feature of this publication.*



However, beyond the basic compliance assistance role that the Labor Liaison plays, there are many ways to maximize the impact OSHA can have in the workplace. Some specific examples include focusing on industries where we see a high rate of injuries. With that in mind, the Labor Liaison worked with other OSHA staff to develop a training program for OSHA Safety and Health inspectors on hazards faced by nursing home workers. This kind of training enables us to examine our approach to enforcement in these facilities and to review the most current and up-to-date engineering controls available.

In a similar vein, elevator accidents account for a high number of serious injuries and fatalities in the New Jersey/ New York metropolitan area. Working closely with the NJ and NY Area Directors, the International Union of Elevator Constructors Union (IUEC) and their signatory employers, the parties have been meeting quarterly for over a year to identify and address these hazards. Last October, the group signed a mission statement

affirming each organization's ongoing commitment to safety and a reduction of fatalities in the industry. I am pleased to report that we have seen a marked decline in fatalities in this industry already.

Finally, this year, we have reached out to employers to join us and many others around the country in observing Worker Memorial Day. You will see in another article featured in this newsletter that this day affords us an important opportunity to raise awareness about workplace related injuries, illnesses and death. We have made tremendous gains in this country and yet we continue to face new hazards, new technologies and new challenges presented by reaching out effectively to workers who are new to this country and speak languages other than English. I am confident that we can meet these challenges—all of them—but we must work together using innovative thinking and new solutions as well as relying on some of our tried and true traditional approaches.

## Highway Workers (Past & Present) Honored



being added to the memorials walls.

The keynote speaker was Ms. Patricia K. Clark, OSHA Region II Administrator who spoke about the efforts of the Work Zone Partnership project. This is a nationally recognized program designed to reduce injuries and deaths to workers, and the public, on NJ-DOT contract highway projects. The partnership, begun in early 1995, involves NJ-DOT, NJ State Police (Highway Construction Unit), NJ Laborers Locals 172 /472 and International Health and Safety Fund, Federal Highway Administration, UTCA, Rutgers University (CAIT/LTAP) and OSHA.



Top photo, wreaths dedicated at the NJ-DOT Highway Workers Memorial.

Bottom photo, OSHA Regional Administrator Patricia K. Clark with recipients of the USDOL/OSHA recognition awards.

The week of April 9-13, 2001 was National Highway Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. New Jersey kicked off the event with its Work Zone Safety Conference held April 4, 2001 at the NJ-DOT Headquarters in Trenton. A major focus of the day was DOT Employee Memorial Ceremony held at the beautiful courtyard memorial built and paid for by DOT employees. This memorial recognizes each of DOT's employees who have lost their lives in the performance of their duties on New Jersey's roadways. The other events that day were focused on recognizing and advancing those various statewide efforts designed to keep any other names from

In addition to the placing of wreaths at the memorial, each of the partner agencies presented recognition awards to those individuals and groups who have been a mainstay of the Highway Partnership. The dedication, time and commitment made by them all, is a major step forward in making New Jersey's highway work zone projects among the safest in the country. Let's continue to work together so that no new names are added to this, or any other, worker memorial in this state.



Area Director Gary Roskoski speaking at Mid-Atlantic Concrete Assoc. conference. See article on page 10.



## Spotlight on: The Hasbrouck Heights Area Office



The Hasbrouck Heights OSHA Area Office Staff. Missing from photo were Rhonda Conklin, Jerry Ford, Joe Kwon, Brian Donnelly, Rich Porteus and Nancy Diaz.

Located at 500 Route 17 South, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ the Hasbrouck Heights Area Office (HHAO) has jurisdiction over the private sector employers and employees located in Bergen and Passaic Counties. The office has an experienced staff of compliance officers who work under the guidance of Area Director Lisa Levy and her two capable Assistant Area Directors Ron Frye and Steve Kaplan. The office team is made up of (7) Safety Compliance Officers; John Barrett, Rich Brown CSP, David Bunton, Nancy Diaz, Brian Donnelly, Jerry Ford, and Charlie Triscritti; (4) Industrial Hygienists; Angelique Bracer (also EEO Officer), Rhonda Conklin, Carmelle Durand, and Joseph Kwon, and 1 student intern; Howard Dixon, and (3) Support Staff members, Dawn Tracey, Maureen Counihan, and Rebecca Miller.

In addition to the compliance staff, a Whistleblower Investigator, Rich Porteus is also stationed at HHAO.

The staff is highly skilled and staff members offer diverse experiences and backgrounds. Two members of the staff speak Spanish, one speaks French and Creole and one speaks Korean. Certain staff members have firefighting and EMS/EMT experience. All have been involved in investigations of fatalities, catastrophes, explosions, and chemical releases. The staff is also experienced in such areas as asbestos abatement, silica abatement, and inspection of various chemical processing industries such as cosmetics intermediates (utilizing ethylene oxide) and dye

manufacture (processing of carcinogenic Azo-Dyes). The Safety Compliance Officers that specialize in the construction industry are second to none and offer a vast area of knowledge from high-rise construction to trenching expertise.

This office is very active in the School to Careers Initiative through the public schools system in New Jersey. The compliance staff go to classrooms and teach the future workers and employers of America their rights and responsibilities before they venture into the workplace. The students oftentimes bring the information to their parents who also benefit from the knowledge.

HHAO has worked closely with various Federal, State, and Local agencies such as FBI, EPA, NJDEPE, NJ Office of the Attorney General, Bergen and Passaic County Prosecutors' Offices, and County and local Health Departments.

The office continues to strive for excellence in enforcement, outreach, and the professional development of the staff. They are available to help you when you need it and



Ms. Lisa Levy, Area Director, Hasbrouck Heights OSHA Area Office (Bergen & Passaic Counties)

are ready and able to respond to all imminent danger and complaint situations.

The Hasbrouck Heights Area Office may be contacted at 201-288-1700.

## VPPPA Hosts 2001 Region II Conference

Herb Tracy, Chairperson of the VPPPA (Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association), Region II (NJ, NY, PR, VI) Chapter said that, "this year's conference is a jam packed 2 1/2 days of breakout/learning and networking experiences; expanded vendor/exhibitor area time and, an exciting keynote speaker, Marv Levy of the Buffalo Bills." This years conference, which alternates between NJ & NY each year, is being held June 5 - 7 at the Holiday Inn Turf in Albany, NY.

The conference is following three training tracts; OSHA Training, VPP/Best Practices, and General Safety and Health and expects to have, "something to benefit everyone's safety and health efforts." In addition, there will be separate extended breakouts offered on How to be an Effective Mentor and the benefits of being an OSHA VPP Volunteer.

The VPPPA is an organization comprised of worksites that have qualified, or are applying to become, a Merit or Star site within OSHA's VPP program. These worksites, and the employees who work there, represent the very best in safe workplaces. The intent of the organization is to share the knowledge that has allowed the member worksites to make their workplaces among the safest in the nation with others who are striving to improve their own safety programs. The members also assist aspiring companies, as mentors, in completing the VPP application process and many become OSHA Volunteers who assist OSHA during the on-site evaluations.

Anyone interested in attending the conference, or to get more information about VPPPA, may contact Cindy Santella at 908-259-1868 or [csantella@torcon.com](mailto:csantella@torcon.com).



BCA Career Day, Liberty State Park, March 31, 2001  
See related story on page 11.

## Need Training? Upcoming OSHA Sessions & Contacts

**NJ State Safety Council\***  
6 Commerce Drive  
Cranford, NJ 07016-3597  
908-272-7712  
[www.njsafety.org](http://www.njsafety.org)

<b>May 3</b>	
<b>June 11-14</b>	<b>40-hour Hazwoper</b>
<b>May 7; June 6</b>	<b>8-hour Hazwoper refresher</b>
<b>May 21</b>	<b>8-hour Hazwoper Supervisor</b>
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Lockout/Tagout</b>
	<b>Accident Investigation Train the Trainer</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>OSHA Recordkeeping</b>
<b>May 22</b>	
<b>May 10;17; 24;31;</b>	
<b>June 14</b>	<b>Safety Training Methods</b>
<b>May 15; 16;</b>	
<b>June 26</b>	<b>Lift Truck Train the Trainer</b>
<b>June 18-22</b>	<b>Principles of Occ. Safety &amp; Health</b>

**OSHA Training Institute**  
1555 Times Drive  
Des Plaines, ILL 60018-1548  
847-297-4913  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

**Niagara County Community College**  
50 Main St.  
Lockport, NY 14094  
800-280-6742  
[www.sunyniagara.cc.ny.us](http://www.sunyniagara.cc.ny.us)

*\*Adjunct of Niagara County Community College*

**Would you like to attend a Federal S&H Council Meeting? It is open to both private sector and government employers and employees.**

**See the Conference & Seminar listing on Page 13**

## **NJ Public Employee Occupational Safety & Health (PEOSH) Program Joins the OSHA Family**

The Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Program was recently inaugurated as an approved State Plan program under the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). On January 11, 2001, OSHA published a Federal Register notice approving the PEOSH Program, administered by the New Jersey Department of Labor with health related matters handled by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. On April 16, 2001, the two departments held an opening ceremony celebrating this event. Among the guest speakers, OSHA's Acting Assistant Secretary R. Davis Layne and OSHA's Federal-State Operations Director Paula White, expressed their congratulations to the New Jersey delegation for their commitment to safety and health to public employees in the State of New Jersey. Regional Administrator Patricia K. Clark also welcomed the PEOSH Program and thanked them for their perseverance during this long, arduous road. For the State of New Jersey, Labor Commissioner Mark Boyd and Health Senior Assistant Commissioner James Blumenstock expressed their pleasure with the success of this endeavor. A member of organized labor and a member of the PEOSH Advisory Board also shared their thoughts and offered congratulations to the PEOSH Program. The ceremony was held at the Labor Building in Trenton and was hosted by New Jersey Assistant Labor Commissioner Leonard Katz.

With the January 11, 2001 Federal Register publication, PEOSH began a 3-year developmental period. During this period, PEOSH must complete several key structural components of the program, known as developmen-



**Shown at the official PEOSH Certification ceremony, (from the left) William Margaretta, President, NJ State Safety Council, Patricia K. Clark, RA-OSHA, Paula White, Dir. Federal/State Operations-OSHA, William Hering, Chair. NJ State Industrial Safety Committee/ Safety Dir. S.M. Electric, R. Davis Layne, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor-OSHA, Lynn Foley-Hering, S. M. Electric and Leonard Katz, NJ Assistant Commissioner of Labor.**

tal steps, in order to achieve equal level of protection as the federal program. Once this period is concluded, OSHA will review the Program for completion and consideration for certification under section 18(b) of the OSH Act.

The PEOSH Program is the first State Plan approved by OSHA since 1984. OSHA wishes to congratulate, once again, the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Program of New Jersey, and welcomes them into its Family!



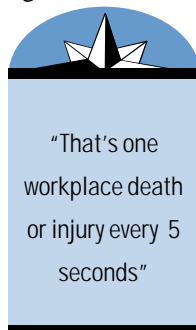
## Worker Memorial Day Observed

In 1989, April 28<sup>th</sup> was designated Worker Memorial Day to direct attention to workers who have been killed or injured on the job. This day was chosen because it is the anniversary of the establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Agency (OSHA) which began operating in April of 1971. The first Worker Memorial Day was observed in Canada also on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Today, labor unions, employers, community groups and others around the world now mark April 28<sup>th</sup> as an International Day of Mourning.

The goal of Worker Memorial Day is to remember those who have suffered and died on the job. As we remember those who have died in workplace catastrophes, suffered diseases due to exposure to toxic substances or been injured because of dangerous conditions, it is also an opportunity to reflect on the need to re-dedicate ourselves to improving health and safety in the workplace.

For this reason, the day has special significance to those who are responsible for or engaged in addressing occupational health and safety issues. Despite the difficulties and challenges we face in achieving the goal of reducing and eliminating workplace hazards, we must remain ever vigilant.

There are signs that in achieving this National Safety of Labor Statistics, been cut by 75 per-  
cent 220,000 lives  
passage of OSHA.



we are making progress goal. According to the Council and the Bureau the job fatality rate has cent since 1970. More have been saved since the

However, on an average day, 153 workers result of workplace injury and another 16,000 are injured. That's one workplace death or injury **every 5 seconds**.

In New Jersey, Worker Memorial Day was observed throughout the State in many different ways.

An event that was sponsored by the Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PHILAPOSH), the Philadelphia County AFL-CIO and the Southern New Jersey Central Labor Council draws people throughout the Tri-State area. In addition to a procession and mock funeral, the program included two special speakers. Anne Marie Perel, whose husband was killed in a steel plant accident talked about her difficulties using the worker compensation system. Lieutenant Fire Paramedics Mary Kohler, of Fire Fighters Local 22 discussed the Union's struggle to gain compensation for Hepatitis C. The event closed with a reading of the names of those who lost their lives over the past year in workplace accidents while accompanied by the song "Amazing Grace" performed live on Bagpipes. On Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Middlesex (NJ) County Labor Council sponsored a brunch. OSHA Area Director Bob Kulick provided the names of those workers who have died on the job in both the private and public

sector. Fred Semoneit, Vice President of the Middlesex Labor Council read the name of each worker and a moment of silence was observed for them as well as their families.

This year, OSHA invited employers to join us in observing the day either with a moment of silence or by simply distributing a flyer which describes the significance of the day. We have been very pleased and impressed by the response we received. A number of employers called to say that they observed a moment of silence and that they had distributed the educational flyer.

OSHA's past efforts have demonstrated that worker safety and health is directly linked to the existence and effectiveness of a safety and health program in a workplace. We encourage all of you to reflect on your own success in addressing workplace hazards as well as the challenges that we face ahead.

### New Bloodborne Pathogen Requirements

This act, passed in November 2000, mandates changes to OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard 1910.1030 and went into effect April 18, 2001. The definition of "engineering controls" now includes additional examples and two definitions have been added: "sharps with engineered sharps injury protections" and "needleless systems". The new definitions clarify the requirements for engineering controls that took effect July 6, 1992.

New requirements of the Act address revisions of facilities' exposure control plans [ECP], records of injuries from contaminated sharps, and involvement of employees in the selection of effective controls. Facilities must now specifically include the review of safer medical devices in the annual update of their plans. Employees potentially exposed to injuries from contaminated sharps must be included in the identification, evaluation, and selection of effective controls, which must be documented in the ECP. For employers required to keep the log of occupational injuries and illnesses, presently those with 11 or more employees, an additional requirement has been added in the form of a sharps injury log. The log must include for each injury, the type and brand of the device involved in the incident, the department or work area where it occurred, and how the incident occurred. This is an additional requirement to that already in effect which requires the documentation of the route of exposure and the circumstances of the exposure incident. All information is to be maintained in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the injured worker.

The agency plans a 90 day outreach and education effort before enforcing the new rules. That would affect all but the requirement for engineering controls, which, as mentioned, has been in effect since 1992. If you have any questions you may contact your local area office.

## It Ain't Just Dust!!!



We've all seen it. Laborers and operators working in billowing clouds of dust. This dust could be from break-out work, concrete drilling, concrete cutting, concrete milling, compressed air cleaning, abrasive blasting and other mechanical operations being performed on masonry, stone or brick. Often, when there was no breeze, the men would work inside the dust cloud for hours without protection. At other times we would notice how the dust cloud would move with the breeze away from where it was created only to pause in areas around workers who were unprepared and unprotected. We may have also wondered about the long term effects of breathing this dust, but shrugged it off as "part of the job". This dust can no longer be ignored because it **"Ain't just Dust"**.

It's crystalline silica. Crystalline silica is composed of two of the earth's most common elements; silicon and oxygen. When chemically bonded, they form a very hard crystalline substance called silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), or quartz. Quartz is the main component of common sand and is found in most stone and masonry. The use of power tools and heavy machinery has enabled us to create quartz laden dust in concentrations that were impossible just 100 years ago. It is the crystalline silica portion of the dust that creates the serious health hazard. Crystalline silica causes a debilitating lung disease called "silicosis". The primary effect of this disease; the loss of the lungs' ability to exchange life giving oxygen for carbon dioxide, is often insidious and therefore



### Part One of a Two Part Article

not easily linked to the random exposure common in the heavy highway industry. Additionally, due to its ability to cause lung cancer, crystalline silica has been recently designated as a "known human carcinogen" by the International Agency on Research and Cancer (IARC).

OSHA is working on a national comprehensive silica standard to control silica exposure. This standard will most probably require employers to protect employees from airborne crystalline silica via engineering controls, training, respiratory protection, medical surveillance, proper personal hygiene and work practice controls.

However, while work continues on its new comprehensive silica standard, OSHA must continue to pursue the goals incorporated into its Strategic Plan. OSHA pledged to reduce the incidence of silica over-exposure nationwide by 15%. Experience in the heavy highway industry taught OSHA that it would need to rely on more than traditional enforcement to keep its promise. Therefore the four New Jersey OSHA area offices entered into an informal partnership with the Utility and Transportation Contractor's Association (UTCA) of New Jersey, Associated General Contractors (AGC) of New Jersey, New Jersey Department of Transpor-

*(Dust, continued on page 9)*



(Dust, continued from page 8)

tation, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, the Laborers, Laborers International and the New Jersey Safety and Health Consultation service to work towards reducing silica exposure on New Jersey highway projects. In 1999, to punctuate its policy of partnership and cooperation with motivated or exemplary private sector employers, OSHA signed a formal Strategic Alliance with the UTCA of NJ. In this agreement, the UTCA pledged that in addition to working with OSHA to reduce worker deaths on highway construction work zones, it will work cooperatively with OSHA towards reducing worker exposure to silica.

It was agreed by the partners that "real-world" silica sampling was necessary to ascertain actual worker exposure while performing tasks known to produce significant amounts of dust. After identifying 10 Heavy Highway contractors interested in partnership and more importantly, interested in protecting their employees from silica; on-site sampling began under the auspices of OSHA. However, to prevent a conflict with OSHA's mandate, OSHA was not made aware of when, where or who was involved in the sampling. Before entering into this partnership, the contractors agreed to train and protect their employees. They agreed their employees would use properly fitted respiratory protection. In return, OSHA agreed not to perform routine inspections on these sites as long as workers were properly protected and sampling was on-going or scheduled. The partners further agreed that this sampling information would become the basis for the insertion of additional safety requirements into NJ DOT contract language.

The sampling took the better part of a year to accomplish and was completed in November of 1999. The majority of this sampling was conducted by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services. The remainder was conducted by the NJ Consultation Service. Without the dedication and cooperation of both the NJ Department of Health and the NJ Consultation Program, this phase of the partnership would have failed.

Sampling results confirmed OSHA's assumptions about silica exposure. Employees performing concrete cutting and break-out work are significantly over-exposed to silica. In a few worst case exposures involving concrete milling operations, the silica levels exceed the ability of the common half-face piece respirator to completely protect the worker. This information was widely distributed throughout the industry by both the UTCA and the NJ DOH. As is common knowledge to anyone who has conducted personal sampling for silica during roadwork, prevailing winds and employee work practices can significantly influence outcomes. However, these results generally reinforced those historically found by NIOSH and by OSHA.

The sampling results can be summarized as follows:

Concrete Sawing -	1-6Xs the PEL
Concret Milling -	9-13Xs the PEL

Dowel Drilling	-	.5-2Xs the PEL
Asphalt Milling	-	.1- 9Xs the PEL
Clean-up	-	.2-7Xs the PEL

Although the agreement by OSHA not to conduct enforcement actions on partnership sites where employees were properly wearing respirators and where sampling was on-going or imminent was dissolved early in 2000, the informal partnership continued. The next step towards "leveling the playing field" for all safety conscious contractors interested in NJ DOT work was the creation of silica specific contract language.



"...in a few worst cases... levels exceeded the ability of the...half-face respirator..."

Again, the partnership was successful. After several meetings the partners agreed upon additional contract language. Whenever applicable, New Jersey DOT contracts now require contractors

to have, as part of their safety and health program, the following language:

*Where the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for airborne silica as defined by OSHA may be exceeded, the contractor shall establish and follow a written Silica Safety and Health Program. The program shall include engineering and work practice controls to reduce the exposure to or below the PEL.*

*The employer shall also include:*

(Dust, continued on page 10)

(Dust, continued from page 9)

*Employee training*

*A respiratory protection program in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.134 with medical screening and fit testing*

*Control of the area where the PEL may be exceeded.*

*A trained competent person shall be on site at all times when silica-generating tasks that may exceed the PEL are being performed. The competent person will implement and oversee the program.*

Such language serves to put the contractor on notice about the silica hazard while also requiring that basic precautions be taken to protect workers.



## The Governor's Safety Award Does Your Company Qualify?

The Governor's Annual Occupational Safety and Health Awards Program for achievement in the prevention of workplace injury and illness is soliciting New Jersey employers for participants. The program is open to both private and public employers. Since its inception in 1927, this program has played an important role in promoting a safer and healthier workplace. It is open to all places of employment, public and private, regardless of size, and is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Labor, the New Jersey State Industrial Safety Committee, and the New Jersey State Safety Council.

The program gives recognition to individual employer locations and/or departments with outstanding performance in the prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses. It is designed to stimulate and maintain occupational safety and health awareness among employees and management. As an extra benefit participating em-

(Governor, continued on page 11)

## Silica Initiative Begins in South Jersey

OSHA's Southern New Jersey Area Office participated in the Seventh Annual Forum of the Mid-Atlantic Concrete, Construction and Aggregate Association from February 20 through February 22, 2001, held at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, New Jersey. OSHA representatives manned an informational booth in the exhibition hall for the duration of the forum, and conducting a three hour outreach program on Silica Awareness and Respiratory protection on February 21, 2001. The Association has agreed to sit down and further discuss future partnership initiatives.

The program was well rounded with presentations from the following:

Opening remarks and a summary of the Silica initiative was presented by Gary W. Roskoski, Area Director for the Southern New Jersey OSHA office.

Dr. William A. Zwiebel, Medical Director Occupational Health Department at Kessler Memorial Hospital who gave a presentation on Causes and Diagnosis of Silicosis.

Donald Schill, Project Coordinator Occupational Surveillance Department from New Jersey Department of Health who spoke about the New Jersey Highway Project partnership with OSHA and Silica exposures to New Jersey Highway workers.

Kevin Monaco of the Utility and Transportation Contractors' Association, discussed their unique program to members which provides for employees to be fully fit tested along with the required medical for respirator use.

Duane Hall, Account representative from 3M gave a presentation of all types of respirators that are available to protect employees from exposure to Silica.

Mark Wadiak, Health Consultant from New Jersey Department of Labor Consultation Services provided information and services available to assist employers in identifying hazards and complying with OSHA standards.

OSHA staff members gave overviews of various OSHA standards including:

Charles Jenkins, Industrial Hygienist - Respirator and Hazard Communication Standard

David Black, Industrial Hygienist - Permit Required Confined Space Standard

Harold Williams, Safety Specialist - Lockout/Tagout, Machine Guarding and Powered Industrial Trucks.

If anyone wants additional information or would like to arrange an informational outreach session on this initiative, please contact Gary W. Roskoski at (856) 757-5181.

Note: See related photo on page 3.

(Governor, continued from page 10)

employers may enroll employees in the New Jersey State Industrial Safety Committee Safety and Health Training Seminars.

Awards are given in the following categories:

**Departmental Group Award** is awarded to a department in a place of employment for achieving a lost-time incidence rate of 3.0 or less.

**Recognition Award** is awarded to a place of employment for achieving a lost-time incidence rate of 3.0 or less for the calendar year.

**Citation of Merit** is awarded to a company, facility or department for working throughout the calendar year without lost time from a work-related injury or illness.

In addition there are four major awards:

**Division of Public Safety and Occupational Safety and Health Award** - Awarded to a company, facility or department for working two consecutive calendar years without lost time from a work-related injury or illness.

**Commissioner of Labor Award** - Awarded to a company or facility for working three consecutive calendar years without lost time from a work-related injury or illness.

**Governor's Award** - Awarded to a company or facility for working four consecutive calendar years without lost time from a work-related injury or illness.

**Governor's Continued Excellence Award** - Awarded to a company or facility for working five or more consecutive calendar years without lost time from a work-related injury or illness.

**For Further Information, Contact:**

New Jersey Department of Labor  
225 E. State Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PO Box 953  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0953  
Telephone: (609) 633-3895  
Fax: (609) 292-4409  
E-mail: [jcrea@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:jcrea@dol.state.nj.us)

Applications for the calendar year 2001 awards will be available in the fall.



BCA Career Day, Liberty State Park, March 31, 2001

## BCA/NJ Hosts First Annual Construction Career Day

March 31, 2001 was a banner day for the construction industry, and future construction workers, in New Jersey. On that day, the Building Contractors Association of N.J. hosted its first ever construction career day event. The location was also rather inventive as the fair was held on the platforms of the old Ellis Island/Liberty State Park Railroad Museum. Whenever an event of this nature is planned for the first time, there must always be a little trepidation on the part of the organizers as to whether or not the event will be successful. None of the participants, which included many trade unions, trade associations, individual companies and OSHA, needed to have worried. An estimated 1,500 high school students, family, faculty and other interested individuals passed through the doors that day. As can be seen from the photo accompanying this article, there was hardly room to move and organizers are all ready thinking in terms of a larger venue for next year. This was a very interactive type of fair in that most of the trades were actually constructing, be it with wood, brick, sheet metal, structural steel, etc. right on site and in most cases, were encouraging the visitors to try their hand at the trade. One of the highly popular displays was the mobile crane simulator that was brought in by Operating Engineers Local 825. The lines were long but the experience was, according to all who tried it, very realistic. At our OSHA booth, we gave out literally hundreds of pamphlets explaining All About OSHA and answered just as many questions. Many of the kids acknowledged that they really had no idea of their workplace rights and the importance of occupational safety. It will be through joint labor/industry/government outreaches such as this, that productive, safe new workers will be brought into the working world. Let's keep up the effort, it will be worth it. Participating in the event were:

NJ Carpenter Apprentice Training & Ed. Fund, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 9 Training Center, International Masonry Institute, DC of NNJ Ironworkers Program, NJ BM&P Apprentice Training & Ed. Fund, Hudson County Building & Construction Trades Council, Insulators Local 32, Sheet Metal Workers Local 22, IBEW Local 164, Sheet Metal Workers Local 25, JATC IBEW 456, Boilermakers Local 28, NJ State Building & Construction Trades Council, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Stevens Institute of Tech., Mechanical Contracting Industry Council of NJ, CIAP, Roofers Local 4 Apprentice Program, Painters District Council 711, DISCA, BCA-NJ, CRT Scholarship Committee, Rutgers University, NJ Steel Assoc., AIA Newark & Suburban Arch., Operating Engineers Local 825, NJ State Safety Council, AIA Central NJ, NJLECET, NECA of NJ, and, of course, USDOL-OSHA.



## OSHA & Industry Can Work Together (Somerset County (NJ) Chamber/OSHA Avenel Area Office, A Success Story)

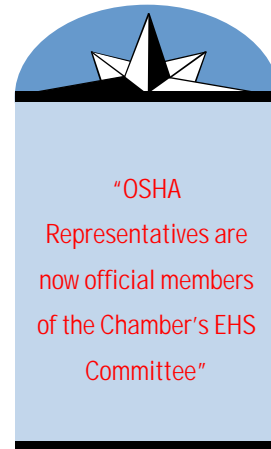
OSHA and a local Chamber of Commerce partnering? Absolutely and quite successfully at that! But what do they have in common and why would they want to work together?

One of President Bush' key initiatives for the U.S. Department of Labor is to reach out and work with community based groups. Additionally, one key element of OSHA's Strategic Plan is to develop partnerships and other cooperative efforts with the occupational safety and health community, with an emphasis on small business, to identify significant workplace hazards and provide information and training to prevent worker injury, illness and death.

The Somerset County (New Jersey) Chamber of Commerce has an Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Committee whose vision is to provide a means for the business community to stay abreast of Environmental, Health and Safety issues and regulations, enhance their management systems to improve business operations in an environmentally and safe manner, and to provide tools and assistance to help their members accomplish those tasks.

When comparing the goals of the two organizations it becomes quite obvious that there is a great opportunity to collaborate and partner. What was needed to bring the two organizations together was leadership, courage, and trust. Barbara C. Roos, President of the Somerset County Chamber and Mike Yarnell, Assistant Area Director in OSHA's Avenel Area Office exhibited those qualities in 1999 to create the successful partnership that continues to exist today.

Representatives from the Avenel Office are now official members of the Chamber's EHS Committee and meet almost every month to discuss opportunities to educate Somerset County businesses concerning worker safety and health issues. The Committee decided that one way to deliver that service is to provide free training seminars. OSHA's Avenel Office and the EHS Committee have already conducted four such seminars covering Forklift Safety, General Hazard Awareness, Ergonomics, and most recently Safety Pays. Feedback from business and community representatives attending these sessions is overwhelmingly positive.



A partnership such as this can truly transform the relationship between OSHA and the regulated community. Instead of viewing each other as adversaries, OSHA and the Somerset County Chamber now see themselves as partners working together to solve workplace safety and health problems. This new way of working is to everyone's advantage and can be much less costly than stiff penalties for violations and rising workers' compensation premiums. Instead we are working together to educate, and prevent workplace injury, illness and death.

Future programs planned in coordination with OSHA and the Chamber are:

- \* Introduction to OSHA
- \* Hazard Communication
- \* Launching Your Safety & Health Program
- \* Ergonomics
- \* Safety & Health in Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Facilities
- \* Office Safety

For more information on this partnership and future seminars, please contact Robert D. Kulick, Area Director, Avenel Area Office @ 732-750-3270 or Barbara Roos, President, Somerset County Chamber of Commerce @ 908-725-1552. For more information on OSHA Partnerships in general visit our website @ [www.osha-slc.gov/fso/vpp/partnership/benefits.html](http://www.osha-slc.gov/fso/vpp/partnership/benefits.html)

## NJ Safety & Health Conferences and Seminars

### Federal Safety & Health Council Meetings:

#### Northern/Southern NJ Council

(Annual Joint Meeting)

June 6, 2001; 9:30 A.M.

Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ

(session within the NJ State Safety Council Expo)

**Topics:** Annual regional meeting with OSHA

**For further information Contact:**

Barry Pusaver (973)468-7028 or,  
your local OSHA Area Office

#### Southern NJ Council

May 18, 2001

Cranberry Inlet Marina

Route 35 South

Seaside Heights, NJ

**Topics:** 8:00 A.M. Council Meeting followed by

Water/Boat Safety Program

**For further information Contact:**

Tom Skirzynski, (732)323-2525 or,  
your local OSHA Area Office

### NJ Department of Labor, NJ State Safety Council and the NJ State Industrial Safety Committee presents:

#### Electrical Safety—"Don't Get the Shock of Your Life"

May 24, 2001 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

NJ Institute of Technology (NJIT)

Newark, NJ

#### Annual Fall NJ-DOL OSH Conference

**Please mark your calendar and hold the date:**

October 22, 2001

Princeton Marriott Forrestal Village

**Topics:** Numerous timely safety and health topics

**For further information Contact:**

Joyce Crea, (609)984-4738

### NJ State Safety Council:

#### First Aid & CPR Instructor Training Course

July 23, 24, 25, 26, 2001

Burlington County Public Safety Center

Westampton, NJ

**For further information Contact:**

Paulette Simmons, (908)272-7712

### New Jersey State Safety Council Expo:

#### 17th. Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Safety & Loss Control Expo 2001

June 5, 6 & 7, 2001

Trump Taj Mahal

Atlantic City, NJ

**Topics:** Multiple sessions for each learning  
track in, Construction; Regulatory Issues;

Loss Control; Health; New Trends and  
Miscellaneous S&H/Loss Control Issues

**For further information Contact:**

NJ State Safety Council, (908)272-7712

### Rutgers (CAIT), NJ-DOT, Laborers Locals 172 & 472:

#### Highway Flagger Class

June 5, 6, 2001

Rutgers Piscataway Campus

**Free** 1/2 day course

**Topic:** Proper methods of controlling traffic  
flow, using a flag person, on a highway/street  
work site

**For further information Contact:**

Claudia Knezek, (732)445-7937

### Building Contractors Association of NJ (BCA/NJ):

#### 30 Hour Construction Safety & Health Outreach Program

June 1, 8, 15, & 22, 2001 (5 Successive Fridays)

BCA/NJ Headquarters

Edison, NJ

**For further information call:**

BCA/NJ, (732)225-2265

### NJ/NY Voluntary Protection Program Participant Assoc: VPPPA

June 5-7, 2001

Holiday Inn Turf

Albany, NY

**For further information Contact:**

Cindy Santella, (908)259-1868

**Editors Note:** This newsletter provides a generic, non-exhaustive overview of OSHA standards-related topics. This newsletter does not itself alter or determine compliance responsibilities, which are set forth in the OSHA standards themselves and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

*Additional safety measures may be required by your facility under certain conditions or circumstances. Professional advice should be sought for specific situations.*

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**Editors Note:**

This publication may be printed,  
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*Comments, Ques-  
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or, removed from our  
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## NEED ASSISTANCE?

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**HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AREA OFFICE:** Lisa Levy, Area Director

**NJ COUNTIES SERVED:** Bergen and Passaic

**ADDRESS:** 500 Route 17 South, 2nd. Floor  
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Tel. 201-288-1700; Fax 201-288-7315

**MARLTON AREA OFFICE:** Gary Roskoski, Area Director

**NJ COUNTIES SERVED:** Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumber-  
land, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem

**ADDRESS:** Building 2, Suite 120  
701 Route 73 South  
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